

REMARKS

Introduction

Claims 1-87 are pending in the application. Claims 30-58 have been allowed. Claims 1, 10-14, 59 and 68-72 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Claims 2-9, 15-29, 60-67 and 73-87 were only objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. By this amendment, Applicant proposes canceling claims 1 and 59, and amending claims 2-4, 6-8, 10, 11, 13, 30, 60-62, 64-66, 68, 69 and 71, and believes that the amendments place the application in condition for allowance and in a better form for consideration on appeal. Support for the amendments can be found in the original application. No new matter is presented by the amendments. The Applicant therefore requests entry of the amendments and reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter on page 3 of the Action. Specifically, claims 30-58 were allowed and claims 2-9, 15-29, 60-67 and 73-87 were only objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim (rejected in light of prior art). Claims 2-9 and 15-29 depend from independent claim 1, and claims 60-67 and 73-87 depend from independent claim 59. In response to the Action, the applicant proposes amending claims 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, and 8 to incorporate all of the features of claim 1; amending claims 60, 61, 62, 64, 65 and 66 to incorporate all of the features of independent claim 59. By the proposed amendments, dependent claims 5, 9, 15-29, 63, 67 and 73-87 now depend from one of the allowable claims.

The applicant's proposed amendment changes dependent claims 10-14 to depend from allowable claim 3, and claims 68-72 to depend from allowable claim 61. In addition, the applicant has also amended claim 30 to correct a typographical error

(changing "waste" to "waist"). Applicant respectfully submits that all of the proposed claims are in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Pages 2 and 3 of the Action reject claims 1, 10-14, 59 and 68-72 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,895,379 to Litchholt, *et al.* ("Litchholt"). The applicant respectfully submits that this rejection is rendered moot by the applicant's proposed amendments. By the amendment, claims 1 and 59 are canceled, and claims 10-14, and 68-72 are amended to depend from one of the allowable independent claims. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully requests entry of the proposed amendment and withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejections to claims 1, 10-14, 59 and 68-72.

CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully solicited. Should there be anything further required to place the application in better condition for allowance, Examiner Anderson is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: Feb. 23, 2004

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